

Message Text

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42

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 SP-03 AID-20 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 L-03 IGA-02 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /105 W

----- 005277

R 210850Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1088

AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3441

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRN, SN, RP

SUBJECT: ASEAN BUS PROJECT

REF: A) MANILA 8958, B) SINGAPORE 2914

C) STATE 176662

1. ALTHOUGH WE ARE DISAPPOINTED WITH DEPARTMENT'S
NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR INDUSTRY TEAM,
WE AGREE WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED REF A THAT OUR EFFORTS TO
STIMULATE GOS INTEREST IN ASEAN BUS PROJECT SHOULD NOT
CONFLICT WITH EFFORTS GOP IN SAME DIRECTION. GOS
(REF B) DOES NOT WANT TO BE "OUT IN FRONT" ON PROJECT
AND WE BELIEVE WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO SUGGESTION THAT
THEY KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH GOP ON MATTER AND WORK IN
CLOSE HARMONY WITH THEM IN DEVELOPMENT SPECIFICS OF
PROGRAM. WE SEE A VERY MAJOR MARKET FOR BUSES IN
SINGAPORE AND THROUGHOUT THE REGION OVER NEXT TEN YEARS
AND BEYOND, AND WE BELIEVE ONLY WAY WE CAN SHARE IN
MAJOR WAY IN THIS BUSINESS IS TO DEVELOP A PRODUCTION
SHARING ARRANGEMENT. WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO CONFUSE
MATTER BY UNCOORDINATED ACTIONS, BUT WE MUST ALSO BE
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CAREFUL NOT TO DROP THE BALL IN SOUTH CHINA SEA. JAPANESE

OR GERMANS WOULD BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO TAKE OUR PLACE.

2. WE THINK TWO STEPS ARE IN ORDER. ONE WOULD BE TO GET SITHAWALLA AND BASCO TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER AND EXCHANGE IDEAS. IDEALLY THIS SHOULD BE DONE WELL BEFORE JANUARY ASEAN MEETING SO THAT HOPEFULLY A GOS-GOP COORDINATED PRELIMINARY OUTLINE OF PROJECT COULD BE PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED AT ASEAN MEETING. IF MANILA THINKS THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL, WE WILL PROPOSE IT.

3. SECONDLY, WE WILL SUGGEST GOS HIRE A PRIVATE CONSULTANT TO HELP THEM CLARIFY THEIR OWN THINKING ON SUBJECT. CAN WASHINGTON SUPPLY NAMES OF TWO OR THREE POSSIBILITIES? CARTER WOULD SEEM TO BE ONE WHO WOULD BE QUALIFIED TO DO THIS.

4. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BE KEPT ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES. WHAT IS SUBSTANCE OF ROHR "FORMAL PROPOSAL" REFERRED TO IN REF A? ALSO, WHAT IS STATUS GM INTEREST?
CRONK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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To: STATE MANILA
Type: TE
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